

TALLEST TOWER BUILT IN LESS THAN A YEAR

3,400 Workers on Empire State Building Coordinated Tasks to Finish Ahead of Schedule.

The Empire State Building was completed well ahead of schedule, within a year from the time of the setting of the first column, according to Colonel W. A. Starrett of Starrett Brothers & Eken, the contractors.

On Oct. 1, 1929, former Governor Smith and other officials of Empire State, Inc., participated in exercises marking the beginning of demolition work on the old Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, which formerly occupied the site, and workmen began tearing away Peacock Alley, promenade of many distinguished guests.

The first steel columns were set on April 7, 1930, and twenty-five weeks later, nearly two weeks ahead of schedule, the last of the 57,000 tons of steel had been topped out on the eighty-fifth floor. On Sept. 19, 1930, a score of workmen cheered and waved their hats from a slender perch over the eighty-fifth floor, 1,050 feet above Fifth Avenue, as a

large American flag was raised to mark the finishing of the framework. The cornerstone of the structure had been laid ten days earlier.

Above the sixth floor stone setting and outside wall construction proceeded at the rate of a story a day, and at the height of activity in September, 1930, the walls on the upper

floors were set at the rate of fourteen stories in ten days.

Due to the cost of project and the large sums of money involved even in a few weeks' delay, elaborate plans were made for coordinating the work so that the structure might be completed in less time than ordinarily is required for a building half

as high. Stonework on the lower floors was in progress shortly after the first of the steel frame was set, and bricklayers kept only a short distance below the steel workers on the way up.

At the peak of operations there were 3,400 men at work on the building.

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